We have so far been in the infrastructure creation phase so that millions of our population can get safe drinking water. This phase, as I mentioned earlier, is dynamic because of various factors and will have to be on-going. However, we have also embarked on the consolidation phase, where issues like reliability, sustainability and affordability are being addressed. As far as reliability is concerned, we are taking measures for recharge of ground water and shift to conjunctive use of surface and ground water. As far as sustainability issues are concerned, the Govt. of India has given pre-eminence to this, as can be seen by the large number of water shed programmes being run by the Ministry of Rural Development, Agriculture and Environment and Forests. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has also given water recharge and storage structures prime importance under the activities to be conducted under this Act. As far as affordability issues are concerned, we expect that increasing community participation in the selection and planning for the schemes would take care of these issues.

As regards rural sanitation, in keeping with the objectives of the Government to increase sanitation coverage all over the country, it is likely that the funds in this regard would also be increasing over time. Allocations have increased by 75% over the past year from Rs. 400 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 700 crore in 2005-06. While in the initial stages, naturally, we had to concentrate on providing infrastructure for sanitation, we had in tandem also taken up peoples awareness campaigns, with the idea of making this a people's movement and for the changing attitudes and mind sets, and assigned a major role for Panchayats and Local Institutions for social mobilizations, so that total sanitation becomes a people's movement.

Water sources in the country

2382. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken to find the known sources of water around the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The Primary source of water resources in the country is precipitation which includes rainfall and snowfall in its various forms. The availability of

water varies considerably in view of high temporal and spatial variation in the rainfall. The water resources availability is assessed on the basis of data collection from network of hydrological observation stations for surface and ground water maintained by Central Government, State Government and other agencies.

The average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. After accounting for the natural process of evaporation etc. the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1123 BCM out of which 690 BCM is surface water and 433 BCM is replenishable ground water.

Irrigation of agricultural land

†2383. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make nearly 90,000 hectare additional agricultural land irrigable by March, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-bound annual target has been fixed to achieve said target;

(d) if so, the annual targets thereof and the years in which additional land have been irrigated so far as per the target; and

(e) the area of additional irrigated land each year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Creation of additional irrigation potential of one crore hectare over a period of four years (2005-2009) is one of the components of "Bharat Nirman" programme which includes (a) 4.2 Million hectare (Mha) through completion of identified on-going major and medium projects, (b) 2.8 Mha by minor irrigation schemes; (c) 1.0 Mha by enhancing the utilisation by extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) of major and medium projects, (d) 1.0 Mha through repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies and ERM of minor irrigation schemes and (e) 1.0 Mha by New schemes for ground water development for irrigation in areas with unutilized ground water potential.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.